

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02649 240841Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 EUR-12 /142 W
-----093584 241836Z /44

R 240726Z AUG 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1809
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2649

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN, CH
SUBJ: PRODUCTION AND EXPANSION PLANS FOR THE TAIYUAN STEEL
PLANT

REF: PEKING A-31

1. FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO VISITED THE TAIYUAN IRON
AND STEEL COMPANY IN EARLY AUGUST WERE TOLD BY COMPANY
OFFICIALS THAT TAIYUAN PRODUCED 800,000 TONS OF IRON AND
600,000 TONS OF STEEL IN 1977. THIS WAS DESCRIBED AS A
RECOVERY FROM 1976 WHEN IN ONE MAY DAY THE COMPANY PRODUCED
ONLY FIVE TONS OF STEEL.

2. COMPANY OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE TEN YEAR PLAN CALLS
FOR TAIYUAN TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO 1.5 MILLION TONS BY
1985. THIS WILL REQUIRE INSTALLATION OF A NEW BLAST FURNACE.

3. FRENCH EMBOFFS OBSERVED THAT BOTH OF THE TWO BASIC OXYGEN
FURNACES WERE IN OPERATION. THEY ALSO SAW ONE OPEN HEARTH
FURNACE IN OPERATION.

4. COMMENT: USLO OFFICER WHO VISITED TAIYUAN IN MARCH
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WAS TOLD THAT THIS YEAR'S PLAN CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN
STEEL OUTPUT OF "OVER 10 PERCENT" (REFAIR). IF THE ABOVE
INFORMATION IS CORRECT, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT TAIYUAN'S
PRODUCTION TO EXCEED 700,000 TONS THIS YEAR, WHICH IS
PROBABLY MUCH BELOW ITS HISTORICAL HIGH. THOMAS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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